

When Presentation Supersedes Doctrine, Part 6 - 1 Corinthians 2:15-16 – May 18th, 2014

- Today's teaching will be part six of a series I've titled, "When Presentation Supersedes Doctrine" and with it we'll finish this second chapter.
- If you were to put a caption on this chapter, it would probably be something like; "a man in the natural can impede the Lord in the spiritual."

- Bear with me as I quickly revisit the first five consequences of the carnal Christian impeding, and even supplanting, the things of the Spirit.
- However, as I do, I want to present it a little differently in the sense that I'll frame each of them in the form of a question within its context.

1. It comes at the expense of the Gospel (Verses 1-2)

- Am I more attracted to the charismatic eloquence; flashy personality of man than the simplicity of the gospel of Jesus Christ, Him crucified?

2. It empties out the power of the Gospel (Verses 3-5)

- Is my Christianity built upon a man or his personality? If so, is it evidenced by a powerlessness and emptiness in my Christian experience?

3. It competes with the wisdom of God (Verses 6-8)

- Could my brand of Christianity be described as a hybrid by virtue of my crossbreeding the worldly wisdom of man with the wisdom of God?

4. It hampers the deep things of God (Verses 9-11)

- Could my brand of Christianity be characterized as shallow, spiritually immature, because of my inability to grasp the deep things of God?

5. It hinders the Spirit of God (Verses 12-14)

- Have I lost my appetite and my desire for the things of God because of a prolonged grieving of and even a quenching of the Spirit of God?

6. It keeps unknown the mind of God (Verses 15-16)

(15) The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: (16) "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

- v15 Paul says the spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but the spiritual man is not subject to any judgment by the natural man.
- v16 He goes on to rhetorically ask, "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him? Then says we have the mind of Christ."
- It's interesting to note the Apostle Paul is echoing what he wrote to the church in Rome as it relates to, "who has known the mind of God."

Romans 11:33-36 (33) Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! (34) "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" (35) "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" (36) For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

- Before we sort through this, we need to note what Paul is "not" saying, namely, that we as Christians are above being judged or criticized.
- What Paul is saying here is that if we have the mind of Christ, by way of the spirit of Christ we're not subject to judgment by any finite man.
- We should also note Paul's clear distinction between the natural man, and the spiritual man, chiefly within the context of the mind of Christ.

- In other words, the natural man does not and cannot have the mind of Christ, whereas conversely, the spiritual man does and can have it.
- While this may seem like a firm grasp of the obvious, I would suggest that we as Christians are prone to think and act like the natural man.
- Perhaps better said, just because I'm a Christian doesn't automatically mean I will be a spiritual Christian; I may still be a carnal Christian.

- Sadly, when a Christian thinks like and acts like the natural man, there will be absolutely no difference between them and a non-Christian.
- I suppose this is the question in keeping with the previous questions throughout our series in this chapter. Am I different than the world?
- Am I set apart from the world, and am I peculiar to the world as the Apostle Peter writes in his first epistle where he explains this dynamic.

1 Peter 2:9 KJV But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

- Here's where I'm going with all this, God has called us out of the darkness of the natural man into the marvelous light of the spiritual man.
- However, the problem is that the majority of Christians seem somewhat content to live their Christian lives in the natural man's darkness.
- I suppose you could say they're still in the dark. More specifically, they're still in the dark concerning the spiritual man via the mind of Christ.

- Here's how I get there, instead of the Spirit being fed, the Spirit of Christ has been grieved, even quenched, and with it the mind of Christ.
- Am I suggesting that a true Christian can live their lives in this way? Well, yes, and no, here's why, first, this is no way for a Christian to live.
- Second, if a Christian never matures in the spiritual living their Christian life immaturely in the natural, they'll never have the mind of Christ.

- By way of example, my soon to be sixteen and fourteen year old sons are more mature to handle what my seven year old daughter cannot.
- So too is this true in the spiritual sense, such that, absent this spiritual maturity we as Christians can never hope to have the mind of Christ.
- I'll take it a step further and say that absent this spiritual maturity, we as Christians will be spiritually handicapped, or dare I say, retarded.

- While I realize this may seem a little blunt, let me hasten to say that there's probably not a one of us here that would wish to live in this way.
- By that I mean; every one of us desires a spiritual growth and spiritual maturity in our relationship with and our knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- Now I am keenly aware that there are those who would argue how this is no big deal in that they seem to be getting along just fine "as-is."

- To this I would simply and humbly say, in closing, you my friend have absolutely no idea what you're missing, or that something is missing.
- For if you had but tasted from the cup of the fullness of joy as those who have the mind of Christ taste, you'd be spoiled and never go back.
- Would to God the Spirit of God be allowed unfettered access to the people of God vis-a-vis the Word of God so we'd have the mind of God.